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INTERSECTION



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The term is winding down. Looking back, we can see what the Chapter has achieved over the year.

There was the recent amendment and adoption of the PAM Constitution, it reflects the Chapter's structure and voting mechanism for chapters without E-Voting. This revised Constitution allows Past Chairmen to become part of the Committee with voting rights.

Practice and Government Liaison Committee has been busy with the reviewing of the Sarawak Building Ordinance (SBO). The draft has

been completed and circulated to the Councils, BOMBA, SHEDA, JKR and other stakeholders for comment. Lately, this committee has held discussions and dialogue sessions with the planners to look into present planning issues; with MBKS to refine the appeal process for ramp requirements for existing site conditions, and new standards for entrance culvert; with the Lands & Survey Department on various planning issues. The details of these dialogues are in this issue.

The Events & CPD sub-committee has conducted more than 50 CPD events in Kuching, including a series of Public Design Lectures to engage with the public. Many of these events including October's World Architecture Day (WAD) celebration are uploaded on YouTube. We have viewers throughout Malaysia and Singapore, the US, India, France and Australia.

INTERSECTION has grown to 400 copies, published quarterly, and circulated to all the Council members and Chapters as well as local councils, colleges, universities and industry stakeholders.

The Education and Graduates is continuing their programme to help graduates studying for the LAM Part III Professional Exams. Under the leadership of Ar. Annie Narroden - there has been various fun and educational activities such as their Bowling Night, and the recent study tour of the recently Tabung Haji Kompleks, Kuching.

Our book project is reaching its completion - 'The History of Architecture in Sarawak before Malaysia' written by Dr. John Ting will be launched during the Design Forum 2018. This will be one of the most in-depth publications on the History of Sarawak Architecture.

And finally, PAMSC is the overall champion in Inter Professional Games (formerly Telematch) which was held on 8th April 2017.

All these events and activities would not have been possible without a very committed team, who have dedicated time, effort and serve the Chapter. We are looking for 'young blood' as part of our continual succession.

Good health to all,

Ar. Bong Joon Hin
PAMSC Chairman 2017 - 18

EDITOR'S LETTER

It's complicated. (or is it?)



CAPTIONS:

1. Tabung Haji Hotel & Convention Centre.
2. Black + White House.
3. Corporate Office @ Ong Tiang Swee, Kuching.
4. 'The Colour of Architecture'

These two bright sparks, Eunice Lau and Valerie Sim were responsible for our cover artwork - a temporary piece done on white board markers on....er white board, at Eunice's parents' studio.

Many architects are prone to over-thinking. Or perhaps it's over worrying - about what people might think, deduce, construe, from the actions that we take. It becomes too complicated.

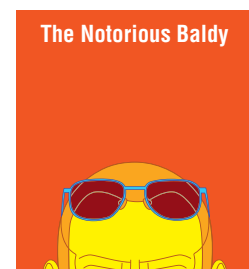
As a result, many of us prefer to remain silent; for fear of ridicule, anger, judgment by others. It is easier to keep things as they are: status quo. No need to change, improve, revise, debate. This contagious behaviour is contagious, and can lead to complacency and mediocrity (complacency's older sister).

Perhaps this is why so few of our local projects are featured in Architecture Malaysia (AM). Ar. Ang Chee Cheong asks me in typical fashion - 'why ah?' Perhaps practitioners do not regard AM as a worthwhile publication - I remember a time when members were queuing up to have their project featured. I hazarded a guess - we do not think that our project is worthy of publication; we do not have the time to take nice photos, write about the project, prepare nice drawings. And there are some who can't be bothered to record their own work.

And then there are those who are able to provide publish-able projects at a pinch - yes, these are often the same few practices (they know who they are). And yes, these are coincidentally the same few local firms who have won PAM Awards for their buildings. Perhaps it is not a coincidence. They tell me that they religiously curate their work, recording the journey from the beginning, in the form of sketches, notes and models, during construction, behind the scenes until final completion. It becomes a story to tell, a lesson to learn from and part of a legacy.

In this issue, we are fortunate to have PU Architects, INTODESIGN Lab and MNSC Architects to chip in and make up our pages. To be frank, I took my eye off the ball and was desperately short of articles in early March. I too have become complacent and predictable - it is time for someone else with the drive to take over. This will be my last issue for term and for a long time to come. I am very grateful for my team for the past 8 years; Hui Joo for being so capable, Si Yong for being unflappable, Pik Shia for being dependable and Ivy for being delectable.

Riding into the Sunset,
The Notorious Baldy



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TABUNG HAJI HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE



Architect's Statement

The Tabung Haji Hotel & Convention Centre is located on Lot 682, Jalan Lapangan Terbang, Kuching, Sarawak directly opposite Kuching International Airport.

This modern landmark for the Lembaga Tabung Haji comprises a 9-storey 246 room-hotel, a convention hall for 1090 guests and 2,475 sqm of office and retail spaces. It aims to address qualities related to People, Place, and Culture.

Being a place for habitation and human activities, the notion of shelter and environment is the basis for the design. In Nature, the rich rainforest with its dense foliage and natural canopy provides a haven for habitats to thrive. In Woven Linen Fabric, clothing protects the wearer from extreme heat & cold. Within our local ethnic context, the Pua Kumbu is an excellent example of the human's appreciation of nature, expressed in art and culture.

The building's facade alludes to the Pua, borrowing its patterns, its folds and creases to create a tactile quality to the built-form. The wide over-sailing roof is derived from the rainforest canopy to buffer heat and direct sunlight, and to encourage activities in its protective shade. Environmental responsiveness is emphasized in the space layout, bringing light and volume to the building core as well as light-filled working/living environments with prudent selection of sustainable GBI materials.

The distinctive roof canopy wraps freely over and around the main glass clad hotel spaces that surrounds the lower podium decks and is centred around an identifiable circular entrance plaza.

The Convention Centre faces the main road and is an extension of this fluid form to draw people into the building. Horizontal lines of shades and shadows gives proportion to the building. The cascading roof and glass canopies end in a modern portico surrounding the courtyard plaza. This relates to the human scale and gives presence to entrance.

TH Hotel and Convention Centre is a welcoming point of entry and departure for Kuching. It leaves a lasting impression on those who have passed through it, and experienced its unique blend of People, Place and Culture.

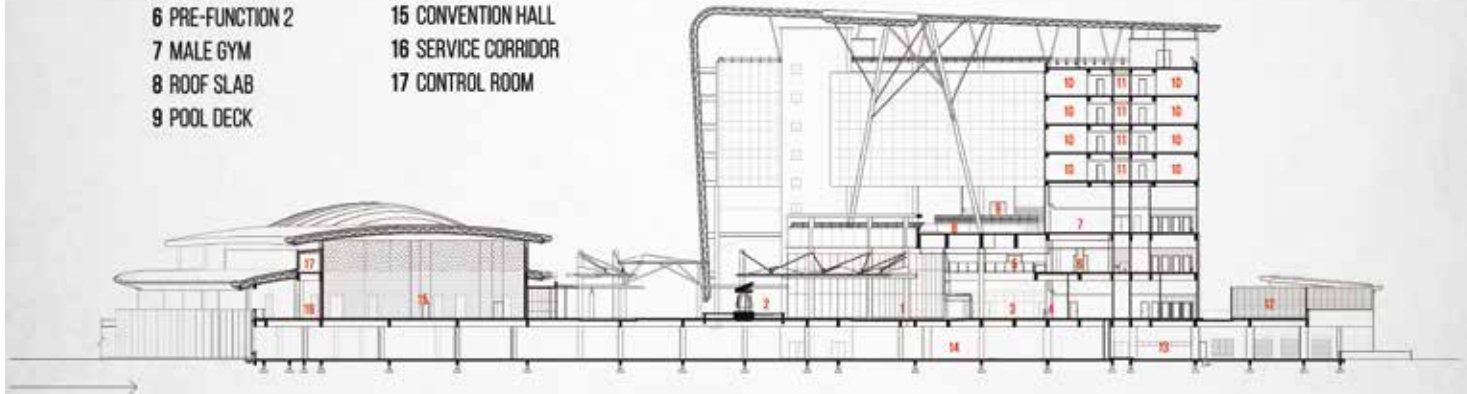


CAPTIONS:

1. The distinctive roof canopy wraps freely over and around the main glass clad spaces creating a unique façade and skyline.
2. The local ethnic cultural symbolism of Pua Kumbu infuses life into the form through its folds and creases, presenting a tactile quality and a uniquely strong skyline and façade.
3. Cascading levels of roof into the lower podium and a series of glass canopies as modern arcades or porticos surrounding the courtyard plaza gives human scale and presence to entrance.

LEGEND

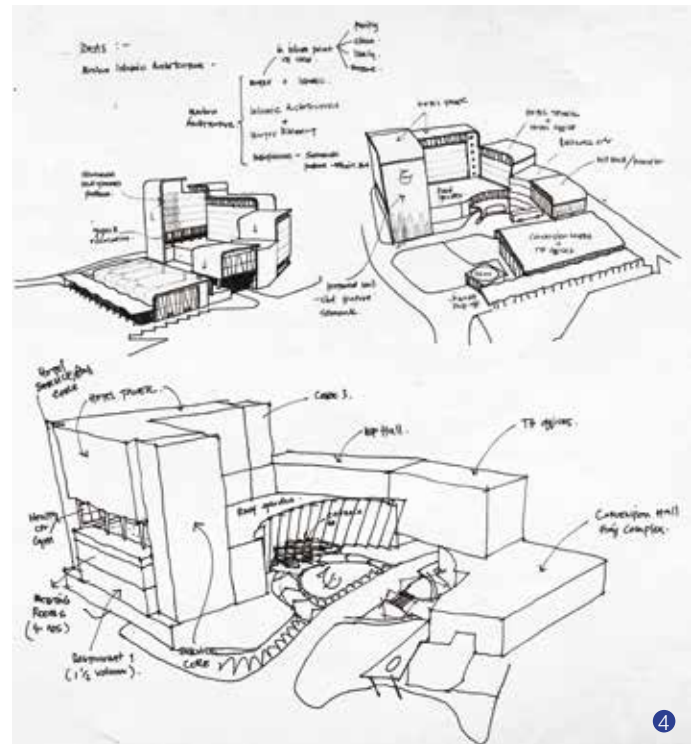
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 DROP OFF AREA TO HOTEL | 10 HOTEL ROOM |
| 2 WATER FEATURE | 11 CORRIDOR |
| 3 GRAND LOBBY | 12 COOLING TOWER |
| 4 RECEPTION | 13 LOADING/UNLOADING |
| 5 PRE-FUNCTION 1 | 14 CAR PARKING |
| 6 PRE-FUNCTION 2 | 15 CONVENTION HALL |
| 7 MALE GYM | 16 SERVICE CORRIDOR |
| 8 ROOF SLAB | 17 CONTROL ROOM |
| 9 POOL DECK | |



SECTION 1-1



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PROJECT TEAM

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Client | : Thp Bina Sdn. Bhd. |
| Location | : Lot 299 & 587, Blok 17, Kuching Central Land District, Kuching Sarawak. |
| Year Completed | : 2017 |
| Architect | : PU Architects Sdn. Bhd. |
| Project Principal | : Ar. Safri Mohammed |
| Design Team | : Mr. Rudy Azli Othman Ms. Aneem Soraya Menji Ms. Siti Khadijah Sidek |
| Project Team | : Ar. Kushahrin Sadikin Hj. Kushairy Mr. Chiam Soon Pooh, Mr. Pui Lin Fah |
| C&S Engineer | : Jurutera Perunding Wahba Sdn. Bhd. |
| M&E Engineer | : Jurutera Azan Bersekutu Sdn. Bhd. |
| Contractor | : Juara Cahya Sarawak Sdn. Bhd. |
| Quantity Surveyor | : Jurukur Bahan Tema Sdn. Bhd. |
| Landscape Architect | : Perunding Kas |
| Interior Designer | : Jefree Aziz Design Sdn. Bhd. |
| Facade Engineer | : Fenestra Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. |



5



6

CAPTIONS:

4.
 - City Blocks
 - Human Scale
 - Proportion
 - Hierarchy + Sequence of movement & Public Spaces
- 5 & 6. Being a place for habitation and human activities, the notion of shelter and environment becomes the basis for the design.



CAPTIONS:

7. Sense of movement and perception through a hierarchy and sequence of public spaces leading into entry.
8. The sub frames prior to installation of Pua Kumbu cladding.
9. Rainforest as green building adaptation, wide roof canopy as buffer to heat and direct sunlight.
10. Rainforest & Tropical Living : The green building is a design adaptation to nature imbued with the characters of the rainforest.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Graduates, Education & BIM [GEB] Committee



Architectural Study Visit Series

Date: 27th January 2018

Time: 10.30am - 1.00pm

Venue: Tabung Haji Hotel & Convention Centre, Kuching

It is PAMSC's first study visit and hopefully the series will continue with visits to other interesting and unique projects around town. We get to learn from our peers as well as understanding the design narrative as we get to hear from the architects themselves. We had 42 in attendance; 14 Corporate members, 17 Graduates, 7 Students and 4 Non Members.

This project is definitely one-of-its-kind as the client willingly explored many creative ideas with the design team to come up with a project that is uniquely Sarawak. This project comes not without challenges especially when the site is strategically located in front of the airport and with height restrictions.

The Pua Kumbu cladding drapes the building with the fluidity of a fabric-like, giving a distinct image to the project. An image greeting visitors as they arrive in Kuching.

The idea of rainforest trees and leaves greet the visitors upon entering the concourse area. The hotel blocks towering, shades the entrance to the hotel and convention centre allowing a nice outdoor space at the same time. The hall can cater up to 1500 pax/150 table.

Moving to the roof top level, the views were just amazing of the mountains as backdrop and of course the Kuching International Airport. Looking at the building, clearly many considerations have been given into the detailing especially for the roofing and wall cladding. As we walk down, we drop by a couple of rooms and the lounge. We were also taken to see the swimming pool level (level2), which was done, in shariah compliance with separate pools.

We should be proud that this locally designed project, which has won couple of international awards beating other international projects in Vancouver & London.

It was an interesting and informative visit. To hear the design ideas from the inception to working with about 20 sub contractors for various building parts during construction must have been a daunting task thus Kudos to PUA and TH Properties team.

INTERSECTION would like to congratulate Ar. Chung Yng Yng and Ar. Brendan Tong Jia Chian for passing the LAM Examination in September 2017.



LAM Part III Professional Exam: Revision Course

- Discussion on September 2017

Examination Papers

Date: 10th February 2018

Time: 1.30pm - 6.00pm

Venue: PAMSC

GEB Committee had organized a revision session facilitated by recent passers (September 2017) Ar. Brendan Tong and Ar. Chung Yng Yng (assisted by Ar Mitchell Moss, Ar. Royzaid Musa and I).

30 graduate members participated in the discussion. Graduates were divided into 5 groups answering the exam questions before Brendon and Yng Yng discussed and shared their answers.

This time around, there were more new faces joining the discussion group. It is a good indication of more graduates wanting to attempt the professional exam and would like to know more about it. We also talked in general about logbook and professional evaluation report preparations as those who want to sit for the exam are to register a year beforehand. We also encouraged the graduates to interact and form their own study groups.

The session ended with sharing of experience and tips from the new architects. We all are on the same page that having strategies in answering exam questions is as important as having the knowledge. The discussion classes held were not about teaching the exam syllabus, it is more of sharing the knowledge and techniques in translating your knowledge across to answer the examination. Truth to this saying "Failure to plan is planning to Fail".

The very best of luck for March exam candidates!

Meanwhile, we will also be organizing a session to prepare for oral exam/interview soon. We will keep everyone posted.

Reported by
Ar. Hajah Noraini Narodden



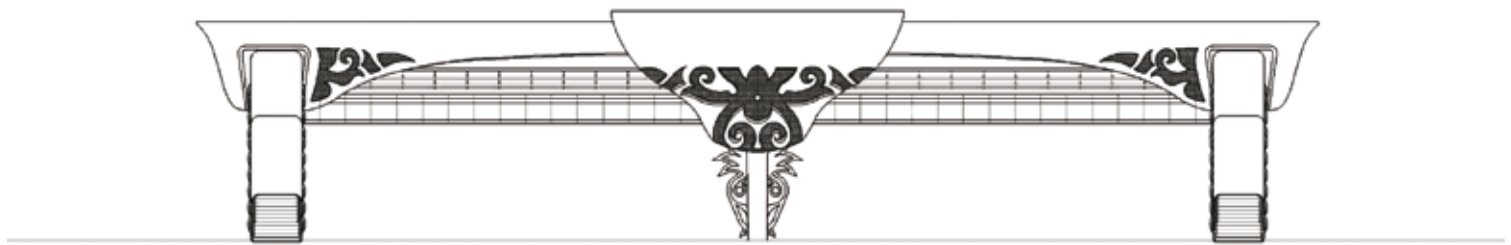
Samarahan's Bridge of Knowledge

An architect approaches the design of a structure in a slightly different way from an engineer. He would consider the potential of a built environment - to use it as a medium of communication; to tell a story, to convey message. In this case, the structure is a bridge.

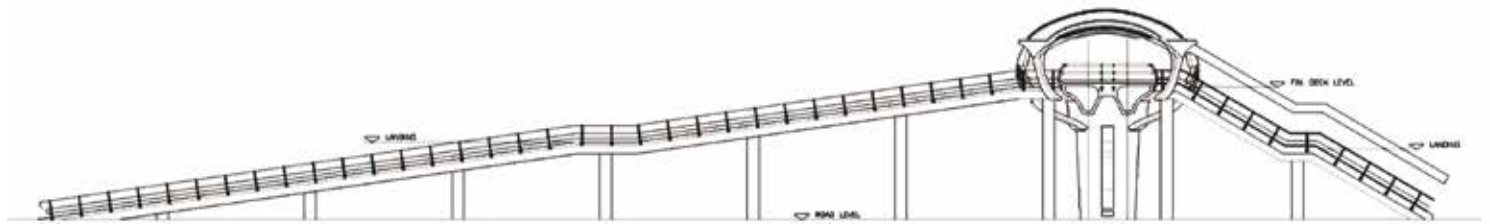
The Samarahan Bridge of Knowledge is designed to communicate, over and above its main function of transporting pedestrians and motor-cyclists across the road. It also conveys a message of welcome for Kota Samarahan - City of Science. The bridge is located near the UNIMAS campus, whose motto is 'contemporary and forward looking' - this was the inspiration for the design; futuristic and in line with the spirit of the university and the city itself.

The use of steel with the exposed framework represents the spirit of modernity, while the Iban motifs represents the State, and aims to resonate with the UNIMAS campus. Ultimately, the Samarahan Bridge of Knowledge says "Let our ambitions be rooted in our culture, grounded in knowledge and science and expressed in a contemporary manner".

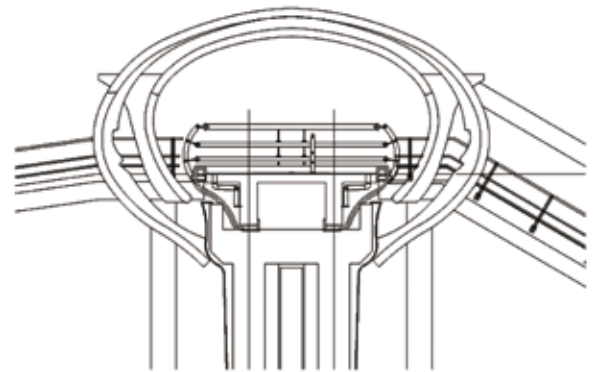
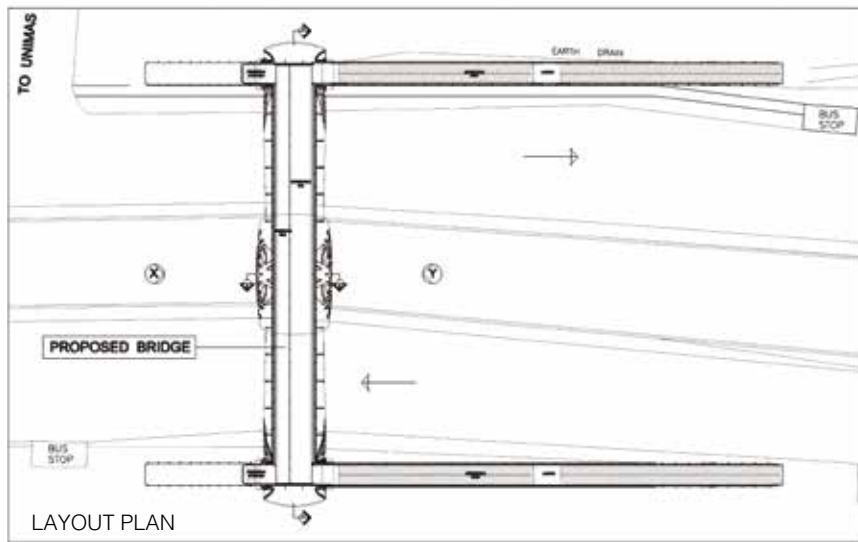




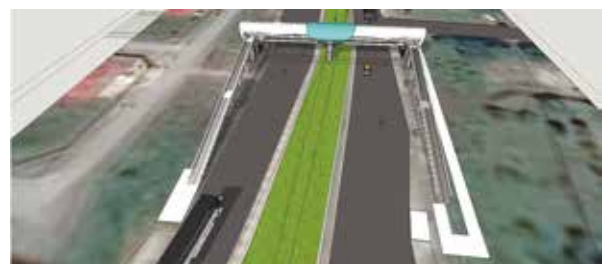
ELEVATION A



END ELEVATION (Unimas Side)



SECTION B-B (Enlarged)



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CORPORATE OFFICE

@ Ong Tiang Swee, Kuching



Architect's Statement

Locality

As an actively evolving lifestyle development and construction company in Kuching, Benta Mewah Sdn. Bhd. sought to relocate its office from one Petanak area shophouse to a new site along Jalan Ong Tiang Swee. Sandwiched between a local primary school and the State Farmers' Institute, the office now lies in a low urban density area on the fringe of an old government quarter.

Concept

Five pods of differing material and volume connect seamlessly to become the corporate office for this young and blossoming company. The heavyweight alternates with the lightweight to render dynamic transition for a person journeying through this modernist architecture. Changes in spatial volume accentuate its essence of energy and innovation, reflecting the spirit of the people of Benta Mewah.

A Dynamic Journey

Across a long pool, the dark steel box entrance protrudes from a concrete wall, silently inviting people to experiences beyond the calm façade. Past the threshold, daylight shower from floor-to-ceiling glazing on both sides quickly makes up for the cold entrance. Interior-exterior connection is established, yet privacy is not all lost with concrete fins lined up against the windows.

Openness surges while travelling from the first pod to the second. Following the concrete pod is a light airy one which space is encapsulated by steel lattice screens. This is the pavilion. It feels almost like being outdoors as tropical plants grow lushly like those of the wild. Sat gently by the pavilion is the meeting room, and perhaps it is comparable to gazebo in a secret garden.

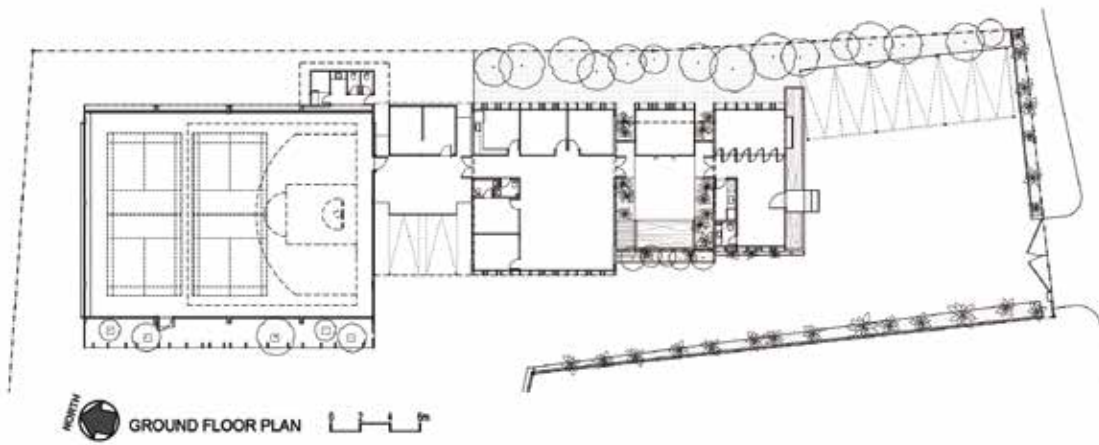
Across the pavilion, the rear off-form concrete wall from the first pod faces a rustic barefaced brick wall, beyond which is where the offices are - the third pod. There is a shift from rural to contemporary. Bright and modern, this is the space most frequently used and where innovative ideas are conceived. Again the expanse of the outdoors is merged with the indoors through series of openings framed by concrete fins.

Exiting this third pod sees another shift from the enclosed to the outdoor. With steel roofing atop, the fourth pod houses the private carpark and utility rooms, of which its layout holds resemblance to that of the second pod. And by now this dynamic journey is nearly ending, having traversed through a hierarchy of spaces from public to private.



PROJECT TEAM

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Architect | : MNSC Architects in collaboration with Design Network Architects Sdn. Bhd. |
| Project Architects | : Ar. Lau Ming Ngi Kong Yean Wei |
| Client | : Benta Mewah Sdn. Bhd. |
| C&S Engineer | : Perunding J.L. Maju |
| M&E Engineer | : Perunding Dynatech Sdn. Bhd. |
| Contractor | : Golden Rich Engineering Sdn. Bhd. (Phase 1) Pembinaan Leyan Sdn. Bhd. (Phase 2) |



Ultimately it culminates at the final and largest pod - the private sports hall which is a composite of materials, recalling and uniting all experiences of materiality from the previous pods. The lightweight and the heavyweight amalgamates harmoniously; corrugated steel cladding fills up spaces framed by concrete columns and ventilation blocks, while the recycled portal frame and steel roofing lie above at a lofty height. By the exit, a series of cast in-situ reinforced concrete fins stand tall along the promenade – its grandeur is sure to leave exiting patrons a striking memory of this space.

Dynamic and comfortable, contemporary yet embracing the rustic – these traits are the new Benta Mewah office. This is a space created to cultivate creative thoughts that seek to enhance the lifestyle of many through the innovative work of the development.



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BLACK + WHITE HOUSE

@ Leisure Farm, Johor Bahru



Architect's Statement

Black and White houses were colonial bungalows originally built by British colonialists in between the late 19th century up until pre-war era of 1930s. They were commonly used to house European colonial and wealthy expatriate families in the tropical climate colonies. The nickname, 'Black and White' refers to the dark timber beams and whitewashed walls, which usually found in these buildings. Generally, the design, sometimes referred to as Tudorbethan Style, combines Tropical and Art Deco elements with a traditional Victorian style home. (An extract from "A Brief History of Singapore's Black and White Houses" by Prianka Ghosh)

Our client, and also my secondary school classmate, Justin Ho is a long admirer of this colonial typology; and wished to build a family getaway from Singapore. At the initial design stage, we researched its origin and visited some existing black and white houses in Singapore.

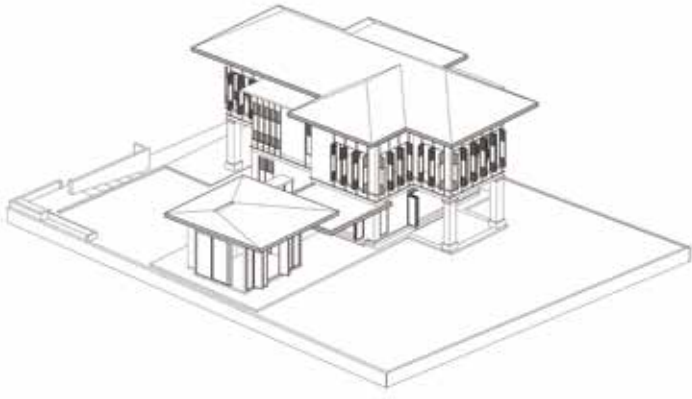
Our design strategy addressed its relevance in a modern context including construction methods, building materials and life style. We adopted many of the characteristics including the proportions and symmetry in layout and elevations, the spacious floor plans especially on the ground. Other elements of this typology are the sturdy columns defining the entrance, large verandas, pitched roofs with huge overhang, tall timber louvered windows and high ceilings.

Although this was a project that is uncommon to our design approach, it enabled us to learn about the design methodology of the original black and white house, with lessons about vernacular and tropical architecture.

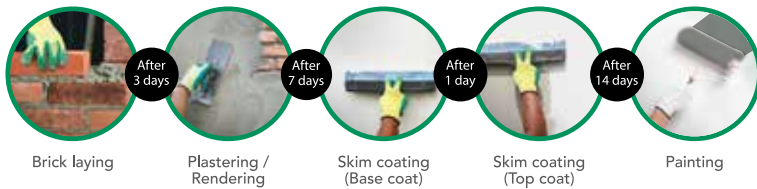


PROJECT TEAM

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Architect | : INTODESIGN Lab in collaboration with ChaiSiYong Architect |
| Client | : Justin Ho Thiam Khiong |
| C&S Engineer | : Perunding Optima Sdn Bhd |
| Contractor | : LLS Construction Sdn Bhd |



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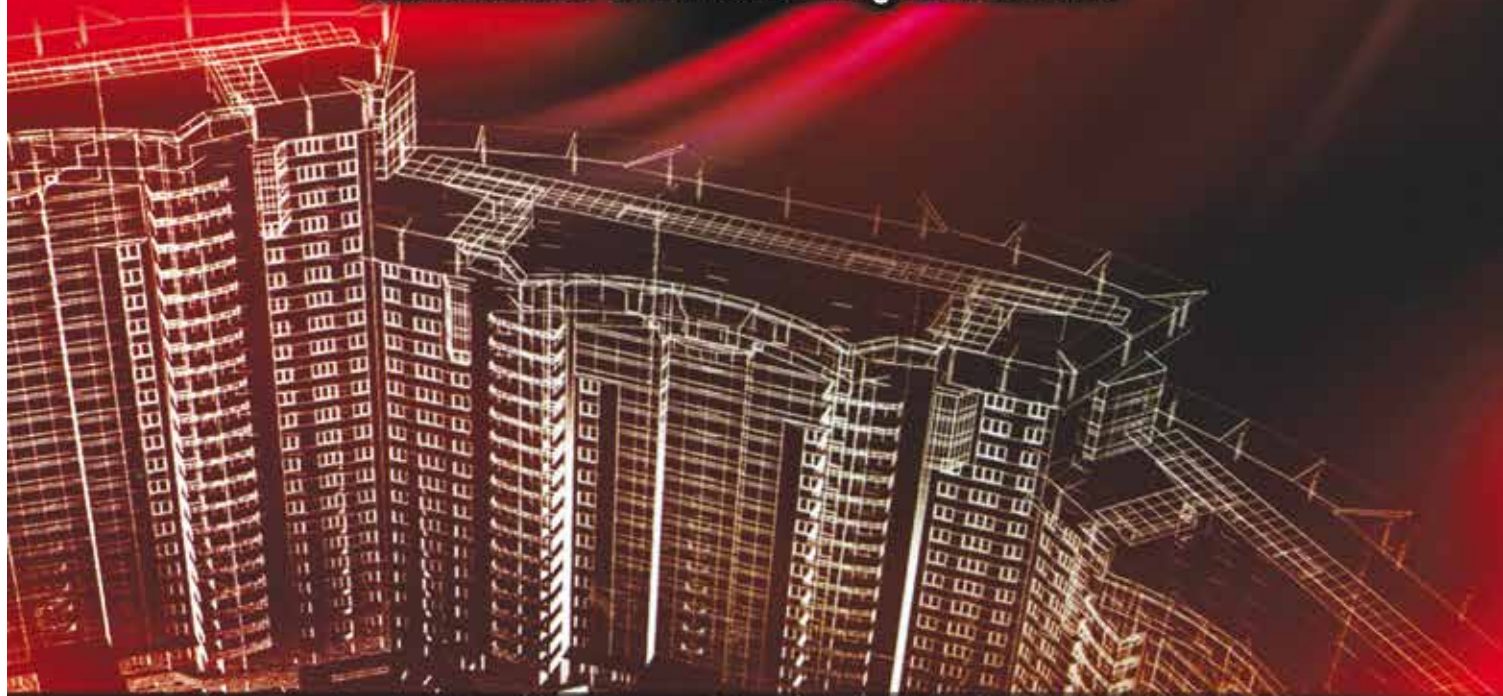
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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Practice & Government Liaison

Courtesy Visit to Chief Minister

Date : 10 Jan 2018 (Wednesday)

Time : 11.30am

Venue : Level 22, Wisma Bapa Malaysia

PAM Sarawak Chapter lead by Chairman, Ar. Bong Joon Hin together with Green Building Index (GBI) paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi (Dr.) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari.

The key points of discussion are as follows:

- Seeks consent for Chief Minister for nomination as Honorary Member of PAM.
- Explain the involvement as stakeholder in various agencies (eg. JTCC, review of Building By-law, labs & workshops, development of design guidelines for heritage area & etc.) and wish to be further involve especially in giving technical advice when required.
- Enlighten the Chief Minister on the book project by Ar. Dr. John Ting "The History of Architecture in Sarawak before Malaysia".
- Promoting the concept of GBI to the Chief Minister.



From left: Ir. Chen, Ar. Tan Kiat Soon, Ar. Chai Si Yong, Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Philip Chang, Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Zohari, Ar. Bong Joon Hin, Ar. Mike Boon, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Serina Hijjas, Ar. David Ong & Ar. Noraini Narodden.



Group photo after the dialogue session with MBKS Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, Land & Survey (HQ & Division) & Bomba.

Dialogue Session with MBKS on Issues Related to the Submission of Building Plans

Date : 17 Jan 2018 (Wednesday)

Time : 9.30am

Venue : MBKS Councilor Chamber

MBKS Mayor, Dato James Chan took an initiative to call a dialogue session between MBKS & PAM Sarawak Chapter to clarify on issues related to some policies implemented by the council. This dialogue session also attended by Deputy Mayor (Tuan Haji Hilmy Haji Othman), MBKS Councillors, MBKS Building Section, MBKS Engineering Section, MBKS Legal Unit, Land & Survey (HQ & Division) and Bomba.

The main discussion presented by PAMSC is as follows:

- Plans that NEED NOT be referred back to Land & Survey for amendment to approved plans (except for strata titled development)
- Entrance culvert ramp – issues, proposed detailing & exceptional cases
- Submission procedures for Building Plan & Occupation Permit.

It was a very fruitful discussion especially on the delegation of power to the council by Land & Survey under the new guidelines implemented by L&S. PAMSC was delegated to draft the official minutes of discussion for the record and to be presented for MBKS Standing Committee.

Dialogue Session with Assistant Director of Land & Survey

Date : 25 Jan 2018 (Thursday)

Time : 9.00am

Venue : Land & Survey HQ

PAMSC took the opportunity from the last dialogue session with MBKS to make an appointment to meet the Assistant Director of Land & Survey, Puan Peggy Ronin on matters related to planning. The key points of discussion are as follows:

- Building Plans need not referring back to L&S from council – proposed to includes the new guidelines for new building submission and all other buildings, eg. Commercial & strata titled properties.
- Development Control Standards (DCS) – proposed to update and incorporate the revisions
- Submission to L&S – timeline, submission process, 2 stages approval & e-SPA submission

Puan Peggy thanked PAMSC for valuable feedbacks to the department, but unfortunately some of the matters discussed are under the control of State Planning Authority. She suggested PAMSC to bring it up to SPA and she will give her support on this.



From Left: Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Philip Chang, Puan Peggy Ronin, Ar. Bong Joon Hin & Mdm. Irene Wee

Discussion on Planning Matters with MIP

Date : 8 Feb 2018 (Thursday)

Time : 2.30pm

Venue : PAMSC

PAMSC together with Malaysian Institute of Planners (Sarawak & Sabah Chapter), led by their Chairman Mr. Victor Lai, had a fruitful discussion on planning matters related to the both profession. The points of discussion are as follows:

- Building setbacks – half height & 1/3 height rules
- Land with legal access
- Special requirement for Planning Submission – Bomba & Spektra Housing
- SPA Approval validity period – 36 months without renewal
- Building setbacks for SEB Sub-station
- Other matters: e-SPA, review of DCS and review of submission checklist

As a conclusion, PAMSC & MIP is going to write in to have a dialogue session with SPA after Chinese New Year.

CAPTIONS:

1. Representatives for MIP led by Victor Lai attended the discussion on planning matters with PAMSC Practice & Government Liaison Sub-Committee.
2. Victor explaining a case study for legal access to the meeting.

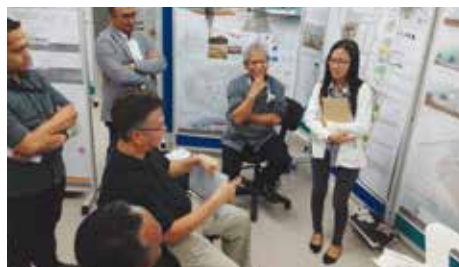
Reported by
Ar. Bong Joon Hin



UCTS Year 3 Final Project - External Crit Session



Examples of the student's works which were examined.



Critique session in progress.

As part of UCTS's teaching objective to expose their students to real life perspectives and issues, UCTS welcomed five local practitioners to critique the final projects from Semesters 1 & 2. They were:

- 1) **Dato Sri Ar John Lau Kah Sieng**
- Arkitek KDI Sdn Bhd, Kuching
- 2) **Ar Azman Bin Abdillah**
- Arkitek Seni Kenyalang Sdn Bhd, Kuching
- 3) **Ar Lau Ming Ng**
- MNCS Architects, Kuching
- 4) **Alex Ngu**
- HKDS (M) Sdn Bhd, Sibu
- 5) **Ar Awang Hasim bin Awang Sulong**
- Arkitek HIF, Kuching

The students benefited from the constructive feedback from the external panel, and it was a good opportunity for the students to build their confidence to be able to respond to scrutiny from the panel. They were also able to grasp new ideas and solutions in design from the experienced panel members.

UCTS intends to continue critique sessions such as this to groom their students and prepare them for the work-force.

Prepared by,
Muhammad Oliver Ensor Bin Silini
Studio Coordinator for
Comprehensive Design Project Studio (UCTS).

COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN PROJECT (CDP) STUDIO, UCTS - BANGKOK STUDY TRIP

BACKGROUND

The CDP studio focuses on the integrated design of buildings with flexible and multifunctional spaces in an urban setting. Bangkok was chosen as a destination for the study trip because it has successfully balanced urbanization and retaining the historical and cultural values of her people. The trip relates to our final project, which is to design a Youth Centre in Kuching city.

ARCHITECTURE



CULTURE & PEOPLE

One common sight in Thailand is a small temple within every building compound; to protect believers from evil spirits.

Visit to local firm – Supermachine Studio

The office is hidden within the dense residential area of Bangkok City. The working environment is very pleasing as visitors will be welcomed by the reflecting pool before entering the office. Inside the office is a huge open L-shaped working place. The working culture in the Supermachine Studio is very flexible. People actually come into the studio at noon time and start working after lunch.

It is a space mainly for youth and designers, with a design library, maker space, material space, etc. We were fortunate to have an insight of the traditional Thai Architecture exhibition.



FOOD

We had delicious Thai Green Curry at some old shop houses near the Grand Palace, for around 80 baht.

Hungry for snacks?? Not many people can accept these protein-rich insect as “snacks”. At the Chatuchak night market, we found crispy fried insects with curry leaves. It is definitely like eating chips if you don't look while you are eating.

Chan Lek Heng



CAPTIONS:

1. Buddhism is the official religion of Thailand, as depicted by the many Buddhist temples in the Grand Palace.
2. The Commons - a 4 storey-building made up of large stacked platforms and atriums, with eating, retail and community spaces; aimed at bringing people from the local community together.
3. Thailand Creative Design Centre (TCDC) sits on the existing post office building; an extension of structures on the rooftop painted in black.
4. The bookshelves are part of the ceiling's structural design.
5. Small Temple in Thailand.
- 6 & 7. Supermachine Studio
8. Thai Green Curry.
9. Chatuchak night market.

LOCAL UNIVERSITIES ENGAGE WITH ARCHITECTURAL PRACTITIONERS

There are now 3 universities in Sarawak offering degree courses in Architecture; UCTS, UNIMAS and UiTM. The following articles illustrates how UCTS and UNIMAS were able to engage with local architectural practitioners as external examiners for the design studio projects.

The key objective for this interaction was for the students to experience critique by practicing architects; to gain a real-life view of the profession, to meet potential mentors and employers and to broaden their world view.

For the practitioners, the benefits of such an engagement is no less rewarding as they refresh their skills in teaching and sharing, and recall their own university days.

UNIMAS Functional Forest Sculpture

In early January 2018, twenty (20) students who are the first cohort of Architecture Program students from Faculty of Engineering, UNIMAS took on the challenge of designing and creating a 1:1 sculpture that integrates form and space in relation to nature.

The students' individual final project which was themed 'Functional Forest Sculpture' required them to develop their creative thinking and creative application of design elements. This project was their first experience of hands-on learning in simple construction.

The task was to create a functional sculpture using forest resources such as bamboo and rattan. Each student was required to choose one of two given plots within the UNIMAS campus. One of the considerations for the design was to create an actual-size model according to their respective anthropometric dimensions.

According to one of the students, Nurul Farhah Hajimee, the assignment was challenging and tested patience. She also said that such assignment provides an opportunity for her and her friends to show ideas through their designs. While for Nur Aqilah Huda Che Ibrahim, "Although this is an individual assignment, the students helped each other to ensure that the sculptures are well built," she said.

For Timothy Andy, although the program is still new at UNIMAS, he added that the teaching and learning method is effective and interesting especially with the final project that hones the talents and maturity of the students.



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EAST MEETS WEST

UTM and UNIMAS students hosted by Ar Mike Boon



Kuching recently hosted 40 UTM students and their 4 lecturers in the last week of February. Led by Ar. Samsiah Bt Abdullah (lecturer and current PAM Southern Chairwomen), the UTM team was here to identify sites in Kuching for their students' projects. But it was also an opportunity for the West Malaysians to better understand their East Malaysian counterpart, through engaging with 20 local architecture students and 6 lecturers led by Prof. Ar. NurAkmal A. Goh (Head of Department) from UNIMAS' new architecture programme.

Both groups were hosted by Ar. Mike Boon on behalf of PAMSC on 23rd February at 2.30pm for afternoon tea at his residence. In addition, Ar. Mike Boon also gave a guided tour of the M+M House followed by a talk on selected buildings in Sarawak. This event gave the students a chance to engage with different lecturers from the two universities. Crucially, it afforded a platform for the students to engage with a local practitioner.

The event concluded at 5pm. Hopefully, the students left better informed about good architectural design and a better understanding about Kuching in general.

Ar. Mike Boon

CNY OPEN HOUSE



Tong Tong Chiang! Tong Tong Chiang! Once again PAMSC center was warmly visited by three prosperous VVIP, members & industrial partners during our Chinese New Year Open House on 23 February. Unfortunately some cannot make it due to the bad weather right before the event. Chairman, Ar. Bong Joon Hin gave a welcoming speech after the lion dance, giving a 'sneak preview' to all about the upcoming new transformation of "BTS". He took this opportunity to invite all to stay tuned & participate in this event.

Reported by
Ar. Chai Si Yong



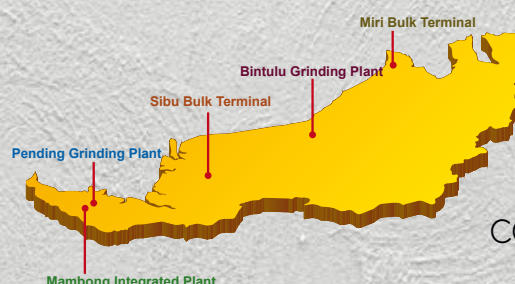
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URBAN STREET LIBRARY

A Community engagement project by Arkitek KDI Kuching



Literacy is a basic human right, the most integral tool in building human civilization and development as a whole. Sarawak has consistently recorded the lowest literacy rates in Malaysia yearly, especially among the poor and marginalized indigenous demographics.

In an effort to narrow the education gap between rural and urban populations, Arkitek KDI Kuching implemented a literacy campaign as part of their CSR program for the year 2017. This started as a series of pop-up libraries filled with free books; an urban intervention in the streets of Kuching. Arkitek KDI decided to utilise their platform as architects to invoke community engagement and promote organic societal growth, all through design.

The literacy campaign began with the Urban Street Library Competition; with a simple brief - to design the most engaging and interactive stand-alone public library that can house 40 books within 5m³. The 'site' was the Old Courthouse in Kuching. 83 registrations were received from Malaysia, the UK and Australia, resulting in 37 library design entries.

The judging panel was led by AKDI's founder Ar. Dato Sri John Lau and director Ar. Sam Lau, supported by Ar. William Khoo of DNA, Mr. Tay Tze Yong of Intodesign Lab, Dr. Musdi Shanat from UNIMAS and Ms. Shafinaz Jamel from UITM. Construction of the winning entries began on 28th December 2017 and were completed by 1st February 2018. Their design and construction were put to the test during the month-long installation period at The Old Courthouse.

This initiative is a testament to our youths' talents and passion; judging from the public interest generated by this project so far.

All three libraries are installed on the grounds of Old Courthouse for public enjoyment; filled with donated books that are completely free and accessible. The philosophy of **"Take a book, Leave a book,"** creates a cycle of books from the people, for the people. At the end of the installation, the remaining children's books will be donated to rural schools within Sarawak. Hopefully, this will serve as a catalyst to give our younger generation a stronger foothold in literacy.



CAPTIONS:

The winning teams were Lau Chee Kiong and Kong Yean Wei in First Place; graduate architects now working in Kuching, in second place was Lim Chong, Lydia Ong, William Bong and Hii Chi Sheng; four Interior Design Students from Lim Kok Wing Institute of Creative Technology, Borneo Campus, and in third place; Kelvin Ah Kian and Chong Chin Xin, B.Arch students from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.

THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL

The Nursery



This nursery is a recent addition to a house on Rock Road, designed and built in preparation for an incoming grandchild. Construction began in late June and was completed by November, 2017.

Building quickly was critical. As the nursery was to be built upon an existing RC slab, a lightweight steel structure was chosen. Pre-fabricated steel members were also easier to transport to site for installation compared to bringing in a cement mixer.



The nursery's cold and dark steel-clad exterior - meant to look like an extension of the existing house's metal roofing - is contrasted by the warm timber hues and white marble accents of its interior.

**Tan Sherlin
& Sean Wee**

